

Healthy Forests Reserve Program OKLAHOMA

Ozark Plateau Karst Dependent Species Conservation Initiative



Overview and Eligibility

The Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP) is a voluntary program established for the purpose of restoring and enhancing forest ecosystems to:

1. Promote the recovery of threatened and endangered species
2. Improve biodiversity
3. Enhance carbon sequestration

The HFRP was signed into law as part of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003. The program was reauthorized to be carried out in the 2008 Farm Bill.

The federally listed threatened or endangered species targeted for habitat and population recovery activities in Oklahoma are the:

- Gray Bat
- Ozark Big-eared Bat
- Ozark Cavefish

The program will be offered in five counties in northeastern Oklahoma:

- Adair
- Cherokee
- Delaware
- Part of Ottawa
- Part of Sequoyah

To be eligible for enrollment, land must be private land or Tribal lands which will restore, enhance, or measurably increase the likelihood of recovery of a threatened or endangered species, must improve biological diversity, or increase carbon sequestration.



Ozark Big-Eared Bat Cluster

Photo by Richard Stark-USFWS



Gray Bat

Photo provided by USFWS

Enrollment Options

The Program offers three enrollment options:

1. 10-year cost-share agreement, for which the landowner may receive up to 50 percent of the average cost of the approved practices
2. 30-year easement, for which the landowner may receive 75 percent of the easement value of the enrolled land plus up to 75 percent of the average cost of the approved conservation practices, or
3. Permanent easement, for which landowners may receive 100 percent of the easement value of the enrolled land plus up to 100 percent of the average cost of the approved conservation practices.

For More Information

For more information about HFRP, please contact your local USDA-NRCS Service Center or the Oklahoma State NRCS Office at 405-742-1234.

Information is available on the Internet:

<http://www.ok.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/hfrp>